

# It's good, clean business. ...a tobacco-free workplace.

## Did you know?

### Businesses

- Pay more in medical costs for smoking employees. Each year, excess medical expenditures attributed to smoking for an adult smoker are over \$1,600.<sup>1</sup>
- Pay for an average of 3 more sick days per year for smokers than nonsmokers.<sup>2</sup>
- Experience two times as much lost production time (LPT) per week for smokers as for workers who never smoked.<sup>3</sup> The average productivity losses attributed to smoking for each adult smoker are \$1,760, per year.<sup>1</sup>
- Pay more in workers' compensation costs for smokers than for nonsmokers.<sup>4</sup>
- Receive a positive return on investment when they take steps to reduce employee smoking.<sup>5</sup>
- The single most cost-effective clinical prevention service that employers can offer employees is tobacco cessation assistance, which is considerably less than other disease prevention interventions such as treatment of blood cholesterol and high blood pressure.<sup>2</sup>

### Smoke-free worksite policies

- Result in smokers consuming fewer cigarettes each day and more success in quitting altogether than smokers employed in places that allow smoking. And, support for smoke-free policy increases following implementation.<sup>6,10</sup>
- Reduce smokers and nonsmokers' risk of heart attack, lung cancer and other serious and costly illnesses.<sup>7</sup>
- Do not harm restaurants and bars - the impact of smoke-free restaurant and bar laws on sales or employment is neutral or positive, according to a comprehensive review of all studies using objective measures.<sup>8</sup>
- Smokers employed in a smoke-free workplace quit at a rate 84% higher than smokers working in places that are not smoke-free, according to an internal tobacco industry study.<sup>9</sup>
- The American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers (ASHRAE) is a nationally recognized source of technical information and standards for indoor ventilation.
- In June 2005 they issued a position document stating ventilation does not eliminate the health hazards caused by second hand smoke, and the only effective means to do so is to ban smoking.<sup>11</sup>

## References used to prepare this fact sheet

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- <sup>2</sup> CDC, Office on Smoking and Health. Coverage for Tobacco Use Cessation Treatments. 2003. Retrieved August 23, 2005 from: [www.cdc.gov/tobacco/educational\\_materials/cessation/ReimbursementBrochureFull.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/educational_materials/cessation/ReimbursementBrochureFull.pdf)
- <sup>3</sup> Stewart, WF et al. (2003). Lost productivity work time costs from health conditions in the United States: Results from the American Productivity Audits. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* 45(12), 1234-46.
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- <sup>6</sup> Brownson R.C., Hopkins D.P., Wakefield M.A. (2002). Effects of Smoking Restrictions in the Workplace. *Annual Review of Public Health* 23, 333-348.
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- <sup>8</sup> Scollo M., et al. (2003). Review of the quality of studies on the economic effects of smoke-free policies on the hospitality industry, *Tobacco Control* 12,13-20
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- <sup>10</sup> Dearlove JV, Bialous SA, Glantz SA. (2002) Tobacco industry manipulation of the hospitality industry to maintain smoking in public places. *Tobacco Control* 11, 94-104.
- <sup>11</sup> American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers. *Environmental Tobacco Smoke: Position Document June 30,2005*. [accessed December 2005] Available from: [http://www.ashrae.org/content/ASHRAE/ASHRAE/ArticleAltFormat/20058211239\\_347.pdf](http://www.ashrae.org/content/ASHRAE/ASHRAE/ArticleAltFormat/20058211239_347.pdf)